



A member of the
Assembly of Confessing
Congregations
of the UCA

BELROSE UNITING CHURCH

Good News Quarterly

Issue #128

MAY - JULY 2022

“Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” (Mark 4:41)

The Gospel writer Mark records for us an incident where the disciples of Jesus, though hardened sailors on the Galilean Sea, feared for their lives when a “*furious squall came up*” and nearly sunk their boat (Mark 4:35 – 41). They were astounded when Jesus calmed the storm and the raging seas with a simple command: “*Quiet. Be still!*” (v 39). In fact, Mark records ‘*They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”*’ (v 41). Jesus got their attention!!

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

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WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

You are invited to
Christianity Explored
Belrose Uniting Church
2 Morgan Rd, Belrose

Commencing during church
on Sunday 1st May 2022 for an hour from 9:30am,
followed by a free cuppa and chat.

Why does Jesus matter today?
What do Christians believe?

Try at least 1 of 7 sessions: 1st May - 12th June
Questions and sceptics very welcome!

**Not sure? Contact Rev. Ian 0408308196 or
mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au
with your transport or other issues.**

Throughout the months of May to July, we will be exploring this same question: “*Who is this man?*” As we journey through Mark’s Gospel with the **Christianity Explored** series, we will be confronted with someone we cannot ignore. Perhaps our preconceived ideas of who Jesus was (or is), and why he came, lived and died, may be confirmed, or even shaken! As Jesus challenged his followers: “*But what about you?*” he asked. “*Who do you say I am?*” (Mark 8:29); so also we may be challenged with the same question. What will be your answer?

Over the many years of my Christian journey I have come to a conclusion about Jesus that I think is expressed well by the great academic and fantasy author C S Lewis who once wrote: “*A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*” (Mere Christianity 1952).

Why not join us on Sunday mornings at 9.30 am to discover for yourself information about Jesus that may help you make your choice about him. *Ian Weeks*

Good News Quarterly is the quarterly newsletter of the Belrose Uniting Church:
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Belrose Uniting Church




in the Assembly of Confessing Congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia

We aim TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world since 1916.

**Every Sunday at 9.30 am Multi-generational service
and at 5.30 pm Digging into the Bible – all welcome**

Belrose Uniting Church Preaching Plan May - July 2022

	Date	9.30 am Morning Church	5.30 pm Evening Bible Study	MISSION OF THE MONTH
	May	<i>Christianity Explored</i>	<i>The Gospel of John</i>	<i>Kairos Outside Prison Ministry</i>
1	1 st	#1 <i>Good News!</i> Mark 1:1 - 20		 <i>Kairos Prison Ministry Australia</i> <small>Changing Hearts, Transforming Lives, Impacting The World</small>
2	8 th Mothers' Day	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> #2 <i>Identity</i> Mark 4:26 - 41	<i>The Lord's Supper</i>	Kairos Outside (KO) provides support for the female relatives or friends of a current or former prison inmate.
3	15 th	#3 <i>Sin</i> Mark 2:1 - 12		It hosts a weekend designed to create a safe and understanding environment in which participants (guests) can share with other women who have been through similar circumstances.
4	22 nd	#4 <i>The Cross</i> Mark 10:32 - 45		
5	29 th	#5 <i>Resurrection</i> Mark 16:1 - 8		KO's 44 th Weekend will take place on 27 th – 29 th May
	June	<i>Christianity Explored</i>	<i>The Gospel of John</i>	<i>The Bush Church Aid Society</i>
1	5 th Pentecost Sunday	#6 <i>Grace</i> Mark 10: 13 - 31		 <i>Going the distance</i>
2	12 th	<i>The Lord's Supper</i> #7 <i>Come and die</i> Mark 8:22 - 38	<i>The Lord's Supper</i>	The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia. We are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ.
3	19 th	<i>Responding to Jesus</i> #8 <i>Soils & Seeds</i> Mark 4:1 - 20		<i>Since 1919, BCA has been reaching outback Australians with the good news of Jesus.</i>
4	26 th	<i>Responding to Jesus</i> #9 <i>James & John</i> Mark 10:35 - 45		Under God, we do this by * proclaiming Christ so that people may respond to Him; * nurturing Christians in their faith and ministry; * strengthening local Christian communities in their mission.
	July	<i>Christianity Explored</i>	<i>The Gospel of John</i>	<i>The Bible Society</i>
1	3 rd	<i>Responding to Jesus</i> #10 <i>Herod</i> Mark 6:6a – 29		
2	10 th	Preacher: TBA <i>The Lord's Supper</i>		The Bible Society is Australia's longest-living organization, over 200 years old! The Bible Society is creating new ways to advocate for the Bible, to promote it, and offer people new ways to engage with it;
3	17 th	Preacher: TBA		Our vision is to see all people engaged with the Bible in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford.
4	24 th	Ian Weeks Bible Reading: TBA		The Bible Society is also the publisher of the monthly <i>Eternity</i> newspaper.
5	31 st	Ian Weeks Bible Reading: TBA		

Using the “Two Ways to Live” Model to Help Others Know Jesus

Michael Weeks May 7, 2021

Michael Weeks serves as the Assisting Clergy, overseeing the Young Adults and College ministry of the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham, Alabama. He has a Bachelor of Divinity from Moore Theological College, Sydney, and a Doctor of Ministry from Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Alabama. Michael is married to Rachel, and they welcomed their first child, Jonathan, in January 2021.

I am not a gifted evangelist. Don't get me wrong, I love Jesus and want to tell people about him. One the best parts of my job is opening the Bible with college students and young adults to talk with them about Jesus. But the idea of evangelism scares me. The thought of telling strangers and friends about the good news of the gospel makes me nervous. My reluctance doesn't mean I can sit back and do nothing, however. We are called to share the truth of the gospel and live in such a way that points people to Jesus. (Matt. 5:14-16, Phil. 2:14-16, 1 Pet. 2:12, 3:15) So, if there are tools that can help me in this task, I am all ears!



“*Two Ways to Live*” (TWTL) is an evangelistic tool that I have found to be very helpful in explaining the good news of Jesus to others. Written by Phillip Jensen and Tony Payne, and developed by *MatthiasMedia*, TWTL is a brief outline of the gospel set within the context of the overarching story of the Bible.^[1] The TWTL evangelism model is presented in six boxes.^[2] Each box contains a key point, a picture to illustrate the point, and a verse from Scripture that demonstrates the point. These six boxes explain the fundamental truths that Christians believe and that one must understand in order to be brought into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Here is a quick summary of the content within the six boxes:

1. The first box establishes that God is the creator of the world and that he is the rightful ruler over it. He also created us in his image to rule over the world under his ultimate rule. We see this expressed in the book of Revelation “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created” (Rev. 4:11).
2. The problem is that we all reject God's rule over our lives. We all want to be in charge of ourselves. We all want to be the boss and make the decisions. This rebellion is what the Bible calls sin. We read about it in Romans 3: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one” (Rom. 3:10-12).
3. The bad news is, our rebellion can't last forever. Although God is patient with us, our rebellion rightly deserves God's punishment, which is death and judgment. So Hebrews says, “it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Heb.9:27).
4. The good news is this: In love, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world, that through him he might offer forgiveness of sins. Through Jesus' death on the cross, our rebellion can be forgiven and we can be in relationship with God. As Peter writes, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God” (1 Pet. 3:18).
5. Jesus didn't remain dead, but God raised him to new life and has appointed him ruler over all the world. He will return one day to judge the world and to bring in the new creation. So, we read, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3).
6. This leaves us with a choice. We can continue to live our own rebellious way: Rejecting God, the ruler of the world and trying to rule ourselves. This will result in God's punishment: death and judgement. Or, we can live in God's new way: Submitting our lives to Jesus, as our ruler, putting our trust in Jesus' death and resurrection. This will result in being forgiven by God and in receiving the gift of eternal life. As John the Baptist says, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (Jn, 3:36).

I have found that the best way to work through TWTL is to draw two rows of three boxes. As you explain each point, you can draw the corresponding picture and verse in each box, with points one through three on the top row of boxes, and points four through six on the bottom row of boxes. This alone gives the visual of the two ways to live, either in rebellion against God (top row) or submitting to God's rule over your life in Jesus Christ (bottom row). You can do this on a piece of paper as you share it with a student over coffee, or you could write it on a white board as you explain it to a small group or a Sunday school class.

When I am sharing TWTL with someone, I often find it helpful to begin by explaining that I would like to share a short explanation of the gospel, and then proceed to walk through all six boxes in order. However, you don't have to do it this way. The beauty of the simplicity of TWTL is that the image and box combination allow for easy memorization. When you are in a conversation with a teenager who is new to Christianity, you can easily explain the good news of the gospel without having to draw all the boxes. Or if you have it more or less committed to memory, you can connect one of the later boxes with your present conversation and then explain the rest of the boxes from that one.

For example, as I was meeting with someone over lunch recently, he expressed that although he believes in God and considers himself a Christian, he wasn't making time for God in his life. I shared TWTL, using the tract produced by *MatthiasMedia*, and explained that it sounded like he had been trying to live life without God, being the ruler over his own life. He agreed and committed to reassessing the place that God has in his life. While I'd like to say that this person immediately repented and surrendered his life to Christ, it doesn't always happen so quickly. Still, using TWTL opened up the conversation, planting a seed for the gospel. Whether I get to water that seed or someone else does, I pray that God will give the growth (1 Cor. 3:6-7).

“Two Ways to Live” is not a gimmick, nor is it some sort of evangelism magic. If you are anything like me, sharing the gospel will still feel awkward and somewhat clumsy. But it is a good resource that can help you to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. So, even if God has not gifted you to be a great evangelist like Billy Graham or George Whitefield, I would encourage and challenge you to use *Two Ways to Live* in a conversation with someone. You can start small by practicing it with other Christians, beginning to memorize the six boxes. Then pray that God would give you the opportunities and boldness the Holy Spirit gave the apostles (Acts 4:31) to share with others who have never heard or understood the good news of Jesus Christ before.

^[1] At the time of writing this article, Tony Payne is in the process of updating the *Two Ways to Live* model.

^[2] Tony Payne gives an example presentation of *Two Ways to Live* here (though it is a bit dated): YouTube, “Two Ways To Live.” Accessed Dec. 22, 2020. <https://youtu.be/kbcvuu8ICFg>.

‘Little Is Much When God Is In It’

An internal conflict between government and rebel forces has seen thousands die in Ethiopia, with over a million people displaced. The Word of God brings hope into uncertainty and despair. That is why *World Missionary Press* is preparing a container full of Scripture booklets for Ethiopia. “*It will be a 40-footer with two million pieces in it, and they are ready and waiting for it,*” WMP Shipping Coordinator Helen Williams says.

The Lord uses Scripture booklets to reach people like Antehneh. “*Nobody had ever told him about Jesus before; they were afraid to approach him because he was a bit of a hellion on the streets, and he was always in trouble. But a lady gave him a booklet, and the Spirit did the rest,*” Williams says. “*He accepted Jesus through that Scripture booklet.*”

Home to 117 million people, Ethiopia is a heavily Islamic country with many unreached people groups. The need may sound daunting, but God fed thousands with a few loaves and fishes. Think of all the spiritual hunger He can fill with a few Scripture booklets. “*One booklet [has] 300 verses that tell people God loves them, and that He has a way for them to have a new life, peace, and hope,*” Williams says. “*That little booklet probably costs us four cents to print. By the time we have shipped it, the cost might be up to about five cents, and it carries an eternity of weight.*” A matching grant multiplies every gift – no matter how small. “*We appreciate every donation,*” Williams says. “*We do not despise the small things because little is much when God is in it.*”

- Written by Katey Hearth for Mission Network News, 28 April 2022

A Quick Word - ‘Perplexing Providence!’

“Because of your wrath, there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning.” - Psalm 38: 3-6. (TNIV)

I am so glad the Lord has seen fit to include the book of Job in his canon of inspired Scripture. Job’s personal experience of God’s perplexing providence helps me to see and understand that my suffering may not necessarily be my fault! Sometimes my loving heavenly Father will bring problems and difficulties into my life for a reason(s) known only to him, and he calls me to trust him, anyway.

As the author of Hebrews reminds us: “*Now FAITH [TRUST] is being SURE of what we hope for and CERTAIN of what we DO NOT SEE.*” (Hebrews 11:1). Nevertheless, in today’s verses, David reminds me that even when my suffering IS my fault – the consequence of my OWN SINFUL action(s) and folly – my loving, merciful, gracious God does NOT abandon me. Rather, he desires that I take the opportunity to CRY OUT to him for forgiveness and relief.

As David said in Psalm 32:1-5: “*Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night, your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer, Selah. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.*”

How comforting this truth is for a sinner like me! The Apostle John takes up this same thought when he writes: “*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his word has no place in our lives.*” (1 John 1:8-10).

What a wonderful God we serve: He faithfully CARES for us even when we CAN’T understand what he is doing in our circumstances; and when we CAN understand that we are experiencing his wrath as the consequence of our own foolishness, we can still cry out to Him for forgiveness and be assured that it is all happening within the constraints of his sovereign control. In fact, he is a God who sent his Son to the CROSS in order to absorb all his wrath against those who humbly look to him in repentance and faith. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

– Bruce Christian, for New Life Aus.